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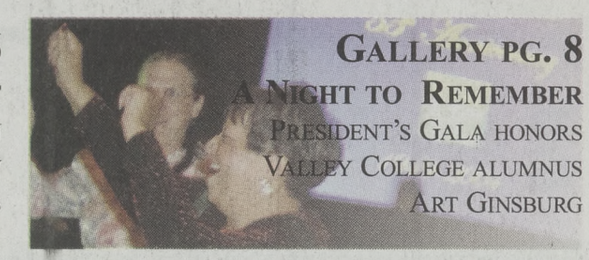

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PRESIDENT'S GALA HONORS VALLEY COLLEGE ALUMNUS ART GINSBURG

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 63, ISSUE NO. 5 NOVEMBER 17, 2004 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Students Receive Recognition

■ Dean's Reception shows students that their academic efforts have not gone unnoticed.

KHADIJAH ABDULLAH / VALLEY STAR
Dr. Tyree Wieder speaks at the Dean's Reception Nov. 11.

BY SOLANGEL CAMPOS
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students and their families came together at the Dean's reception in Monarch Hall Thursday to recognize the outstanding academic achievements of students who made the Dean's List and those who received the President's Honor Award.

More than 200 people attended the event that included the musical talents of Valley student John Jihanyan and provided appetizers of cookies, fruit punch and mini-quiches.

Both full-time and part-time students who earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher are eligible for the Dean's List. Recipients of the President's Honor Award include students on the Dean's List for three consecutive semesters. The designation Dean's List and Presidents' Honor Award is placed on student transcripts.

"It's good to be recognized for my hard work and to set a good example for my children," said child development major Doris Meels.

Students were recognized by the ASU, TAU Alpha Epsilon and the office of student services. President's Award recipients were asked to walk across the stage and receive the President's Honor pin.

Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine spoke about the importance of never giving up. Zine, a Valley alumnus, has served the Los Angeles community for more than 33 years. He is also the first council member with a Middle Eastern background.

Zine explained that during his childhood, education was never as big an issue as putting food on the table. An average student in school, Zine learned the importance of education from his father.

"I'm extremely proud of my son," said Barrie Richter, mother of student Jonathan Rissman. "It hasn't been easy for him and it's nice that students are being recognized for their hard work. I'm very pleased to have come to this reception."

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE — FOOTBALL

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR
CENTER OF ATTENTION - Kicker Chrisian Guardado, left, sounds the bell, heralding a Monarchs victory over longtime rivals, the Pierce Brahmas, following the season finale Nov. 13 at Shepard Stadium in Woodland Hills. Valley won 36-33. ***Story on Page 6.***

STUDENT HELP

Rent-a-Writer "Ghosts" for Students

■ Students don't have to lift a finger with this service, but some consider it unethical.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
OPINION EDITOR

If you're not afraid of ghosts but just afraid of failing English class, help is available. There are a variety of flyers posted around campus advertising Rent-a-Writer ghostwriting service for students who are willing to hand over cold, hard cash to buy a custom made grade A term paper, essay or thesis. "I'll offer services above and beyond what students need for basic class assignments," said Jim Barmeier of Rent-a-Writer.

Barmeier, 50, is a private, professional writer who isn't affiliated with Valley College. He markets himself as a master's graduate from Stanford University and member of the Writer's Guild.

"I can offer services that

see *Ghost Writer* page 2

Bush Sets Bigger Goals for 2nd Term

■ An ambitious outline of the president's renewed conservative agenda is revealed.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
NEWS EDITOR

Securing the mandate that eluded him in the 2000 elections, President George W. Bush became the first Republican to win re-election since Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Bush asked the 55 million people who voted against him to support his agenda.

"I will do all I can do to deserve your trust," he said. "When we come together and work together, there is no limit to the greatness of America."

Bush has reduced his agenda to four or five major goals.

Bush's most notable goal is a restructuring of Social Security that would allow younger workers to invest withholdings in the stock market.

Some argue that despite solid Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress, changes in Social Security will be dealt cautiously.

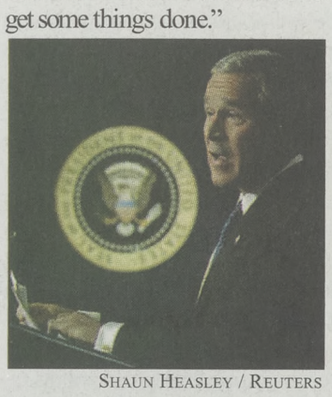
"Members [of Congress] are terrified that the Democrats will accuse them of doing major surgery and endangering peoples' benefits," said Ross K. Baker, a congressional scholar at Rutgers University.

Bush also vowed to continue the fight against terrorism, secure stable democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan, and "uphold our deepest values and family and faith."

Other items on Bush's agenda include cutting the record $413 billion deficit in half, a constitutional ban on gay marriage and moving "this good hearted nation toward a culture of life."

"I am angered by the rest of the country's ignorance," said Valley student Karen Blanch. "We've just voted in a president who's more concerned with our morals than dealing with the rising un-employment rate and the billion dollar deficit he created. What's between the American public's ears- a 'this space for rent sign?'"

Bush defends his administration and notes his growth while in office. "I've been wisened to the ways of Washington," he said at his post-election news conference. "I really didn't come here just to hold the office — just to say, 'Gosh, it was fun to serve.' I came here to get some things done."



SHAUN HEASLEY / REUTERS

VALLEY PEOPLE

Rubin Gives Executive Assistance

■ President's assistant helps in many areas.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
NEWS EDITOR

Jeanne Rubin is the first face you see when you walk into the president's office, welcoming every student with a warm smile and a hearty hello.

"She goes out of her way to assist anyone who comes into the office and calls," said Valley College President, Tyree Wieder. "She is a wonderful asset to the president's office."

Her short gray hair and tailored suit identify Rubin as a person that takes charge and reflects her position as executive assistant to Wieder. The 5-foot-6-inch Rubin has no reservations when speaking about the school. She beamed while discussing how the college inspired her.

"Valley is a wonderful place to work," said Rubin casually sitting with her arms crossed over her chest. "The biggest benefit of being at this college is the kind of students that go here and being able to work for a president like Tyree."

Duane Martin, administrative analyst at academic affairs, agrees that Rubin is one of the aspects of Valley that make it a more enjoyable environment in which to work.

"[Jeanne] is an incredible lady, in my book," said Martin. "She's always pleasant, even with the various tensions in the president's office."

BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR
FROM THE WEST WING - Jeanne Rubin, executive assistant to Valley College President Tyree Wieder, has been working around the clock during hard days and long nights for three years.

Although Rubin is a Midwest native, her family initially moved to California from Ohio in 1962 when the steel industry began to falter, Rubin considers herself a Californian at heart.

"I was a freshman in high school when we moved," said Rubin. "California was like another planet compared to where I came from. In Ohio people wore bobby socks and saddle shoes, very modest clothing. In California, all the kids had there own cars. They were super-sophisticated compared to the high school students in

see *Rubin* page 5

CAMPUS EYE

ACADEMIC HONESTY BROWN BAG LUNCH:
Thursday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. at CCR.

STARS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:
Thursday, Nov. 18, 2 p.m. at PSCR.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING:
Friday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m. at CC104.

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UCLA:
Wednesday Nov. 17, 10 a.m- 3: 30 a.m.. at Career Transfer Center.

UNIVERSITY OF PHEONIX:
Wednesday Nov. 17, 10 a.m- 1 p.m.. at Monarch Square.

UCLA STUDENT TRANFER CONFERENCE:
Friday Nov. 19, 9 a.m- 3 p.m. Pre- registration required, transportation provided by Valley.

A Night of Celebration

■ The President's Gala proved to be another big success, raising more than $5,000.

BY CLAUDIA LOZANO
STAFF WRITER

The Patrons Association held its annual President's Gala last Saturday to celebrate Valley College's emerald anniversary. Valley alumnus and restaurateur, Art Ginsburg, baseball legend Pete Rose, Los Angeles City Council member Wendy Greuel and other dignitaries also attended.

"Art is a tremendous supporter and a civic leader," said Greuel. "I'm here to pay my respects to him and Valley College."

More than 500 people gathered in the grand ballroom at the Sheraton Universal hotel to celebrate Valley's history.

"This is the fifth year I've attended, and it's a great event," said astronomy professor David Falk. "You don't get to dress up too often ."

The evening's host and Patrons Association President Michael Weinper reminisced about his days as a Valley student, setting the tone for an evening retrospect of the college's 55 years.

A live auction followed the speeches and raised more than $5,000.

"I was here two years ago and it has improved 100 times," said president of Valley's music club Dayna Price. "I'm very honored to be a part of it."

Valley's president Tyree Weider was impressed with the affair. "I've had a wonderful evening," said Weider. "It's been great to remember Valley's past, looking to our future."

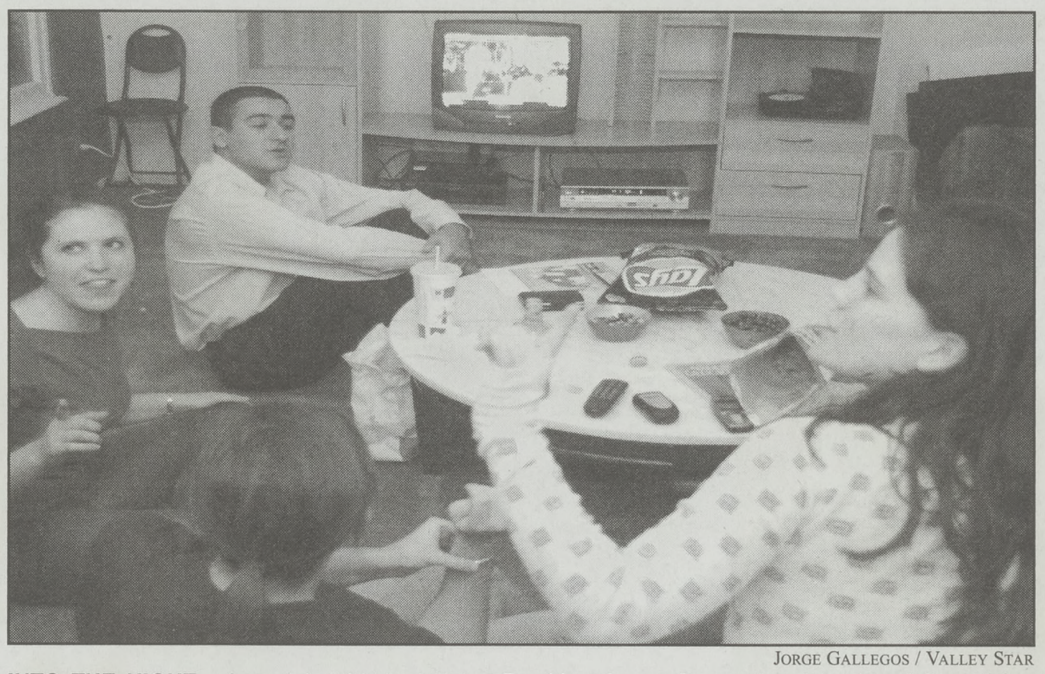
SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

A WORK OF ART- Council member Wendy Greuel presents Art Gingsburg with an achievement award for his dedicated service to Valley College.

FOR THE RECORD

A false caption ran in an article in last week's issue titled "Record Turnout Fuels Close Races." Below is the correct caption. Also, The Valley Star's coverage of "'Blanket ballot' Measure Passes; Other Propositions Split Evenly" incorrectly stated that Proposition 66- "Three Strikes law" passed. The measure was defeated by 600,000 votes.

CORRECTED CAPTION FOR 11/3/04 ISSUE



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

INTO THE NIGHT - Associated Student Union President Levon Bagramian, joined by fellow Valley College students, views election coverage Nov. 2. Both presidential candidates were close in the polls going into Wednesday, with Ohio as the lead battleground state.

Money Sense

■ First in a three-part series with money-making tips for students.

BY LYGEIA FERRAGALLO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

In order to make money, you have to stretch the dollars you have. With a bit of resourcefulness, the possibilities through self-employment, flexible part-time jobs and creative alternatives to earn additional income are entirely within reach.

Making Money While You Sleep

If collecting bottles and cans for profit doesn't appeal to you, then consider using ebay, www.ebay.com, an auction site where you can sell your junk or buy at goodwill to resell. What you need to start: an item to auction, a digital camera, a computer and postal supplies.

There are also programs in place for anyone interested in learning more about starting a business. Jobstarts.org, will not only teach you how to be an entrepreneur, but will also match fund grants to help start your business.

Get Paid to Drive

Advertisers will pay you to drive your car, or theirs. The requirements are a minimum amount of miles driven or installing a GPS tracking device. If selected, a student get help paying for car fees and insurance. Visit www.freecar.com or www.adsonwheels.com for more information.

The Job Factory offers interesting and unusual jobs in Los Angeles but requires a $60 fee, you can also visit www.craigslist.org, which is full of job postings. In order to stand out, send a personal response with an eye-catching heading and a resume.

Also learn to be thrifty, minimizing your expenses will help ensure your funds will last. When at work, bring your own lunch instead of ordering out. Clip and use coupons or prepaid phone cards for long distance calls. Use cash instead of credit. Also, surround yourself with other thrifty people, don't be frugal alone.

Finally, don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone. Choosing an internship opportunity or starting your own business may seem difficult at first, but it pays off in the end.

Ghost Writer Does the Job

[*Ghost Writer*] **from Pg. 1**

may be missing from campus tutoring or the classroom," Barmeier said. Rates vary, starting at $25 per hour for his services, depending on the clients' needs.

"There are two kinds of students who call me," said Barmeier. "Those who plan ahead and those who wait until the last minute. In the past I've been willing to pull all-nighters, but if you call me too late, you'll probably get my answering machine." Barmeier encourages students to do their own research and thinking for their assignment. If a student wants to buy a complete, pre-written essay, they'll have to buy one on the Internet, according to Barmeier.

"There's a dividing line between helping and actually writing," said Barmeier. "That's where I draw the line." The downside to Barmeier's service and others like it is that students may be breaking district and college rules and regulations that prohibit plagiarism and fraud. "Hiring someone else to write your paper for you is called 'ghostwriting' or 'plagiarism,' said Writing Center Tutor Coordinator Scott Weigand. "If you get caught, you could fail the assignment, fail the class and face academic probation."

Valley's writing center offers students a legal way to better grades. According to Valley's office of research and planning, students who attend tutoring sessions in the writing lab manage to raise their grades by an average of 10 percent. That can mean the difference between an A and a B.

"One of the perks of being a Valley student is [having] free help from qualified tutors," Weigand said. "We have tutors available with a wide range of qualifications. We specialize in catering to English as a Second language students and we keep up with the latest education trends through weekly training sessions and staff meetings."

"Why should I pay someone else to do my work?" Castro, 44, is a regular visitor to Valley's writing center – room 100 in the humanities building – that's where students can find free help with writing assignments and homework.

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ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **IS BIOTERRORISM A GENUINE THREAT?**

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

Smallpox is No Small Threat

■ Bioterror is a real and effective weapon that has been around for centuries.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
OPINION EDITOR

Ever since they first traded pox-filled blankets with Native Americans, the U.S. government has known the effectiveness of germ warfare and bioterrorism.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services handed out $232 million in biodefense contracts to fund development of new vaccines against smallpox, plague and tularemia. A major outbreak of any of these diseases would spell huge catastrophe.

Throughout history, smallpox wiped out entire nations and empires. Twenty years ago, smallpox was eradicated worldwide through a global vaccination program and since then, the U.S. government has halted required immunization.

Today, many experts agree that Iraq and North Korea may have acquired stocks of smallpox virus to use as bioweapons.

If terrorists released an aerosol form of the virus in a crowded place such as an airport, the result could be widespread disease of horrific proportions.

In our unstable global political climate, chemical and biological warfare are growing problems of major concern.

In 1995, sarin nerve gas was released on a Tokyo subway. In 2001, anthrax was intentionally distributed through the U.S. mail.

Last year, the global SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak showed us just how swiftly an airborne disease can travel around the world.

Before the SARS outbreak was contained, a total of 8,098 people worldwide became sick with the disease between November 2002 and July 2003.

According to the World Health Organization, 774 people were killed by SARS.

Deadly disease outbreaks are very real and the threat of bioterrorism is deadly serious.

Government measures and funding to respond to and prepare for bioterrorism are important to strengthen the existing public health system.

Smallpox, plague and tularemia are highly contagious viruses that are transmitted by the exact same pathways as influenza. The difference between these diseases and the flu is that they are potentially much more deadly.

Globally, the World Health Organization reports 1,000 to 3,000 cases of plague each year. There is currently no plague vaccine. The plague infects the lungs and it can spread from person to person through the air and is nearly always fatal unless antibiotic treatment is started within 24 hours of infection.

The government has taken only a few small steps to prepare for modern germ warfare. Much more needs to be done, and the sooner the better.

Figures from the U.S. State Department and the FBI show that the United States is the country most frequently targeted by terrorists.

It's not a question of whether or not terrorists will strike, but when and how.

Deadly disease outbreaks are inevitable, whether caused by natural means or terrorist attacks.

It's better to be prepared.

Bioterrorism: Just Scare Tactics

■ Tax money should be spent to deal with real diseases not imaginary threats.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
STAFF WRITER

It is time for our government to be realistic and look at the problems in front of us.

While the government is busy spending billions of dollars on bioterrorism, Americans still depend on the British for 100 million doses of influenza vaccine, which never came.

Is our government blind to our needs or they're just ignoring the fact that flu shots are more important than an imaginary bioterrorism threat?

Think about the fact that we're not prepared for a basic flu epidemic. Influenza poses a very real and immediate danger and currently threatens the lives of thousands of Americans. Some of the $5.6 billion that President Bush approved for bioterrorism should be spent to buy next year's flu shots.

Typically, up to 20 percent of the population gets the flu each year, resulting in more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths, according to the CDC.

A total of 61 million doses of vaccine will be available this season, far shy of the expected 100 million doses. Approximately 90 million people in the high-risk category need the shot, according to Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the CDC.

It is time for President Bush to be a little more realistic about today's genuine threats instead of wasting tax money studying rare strains of diseases like smallpox or viral hemorrhagic fever.

These viruses are only found in very few high security laboratories in the world, including Atlanta's Centers for Disease Control and Vector Laboratories in Siberia, Russia.

The existence of the diseases in those research centers actually pose more of a threat to citizens than the remote chance of terrorist germ warfare.

It is nearly impossible for the terrorists to mix complex and dangerous chemicals and viruses with the technology they have in their caves. At the very least, they would require a lab with running water to develop strains of genetically altered diseases.

The nation would be safer if the government did something about health care costs for students who don't have rich parents to pay their premiums.

Underprivileged citizens without proper health care end up becoming reservoirs for illness. Poor nutrition and poverty are continuously claiming lives in this country.

The money being wasted on the far-fetched threat of a bioterrorist attack would be better spent on doing something about AIDS, HIV, cancer, or even drunk driving and gang violence; problems which claim thousands of lives everyday but don't get as much attention as the more dramatic, yet unrealistic germ warfare risk.

The number of people killed each day by bioterrorism has been holding steady at zero for quite some time. While there is a minor possibility for bioterrorist attacks against the United States from every corner of the world, we still have to remember our priorities.

We need to stop spending money on unrealistic threats and do something about diseases that are already killing us.

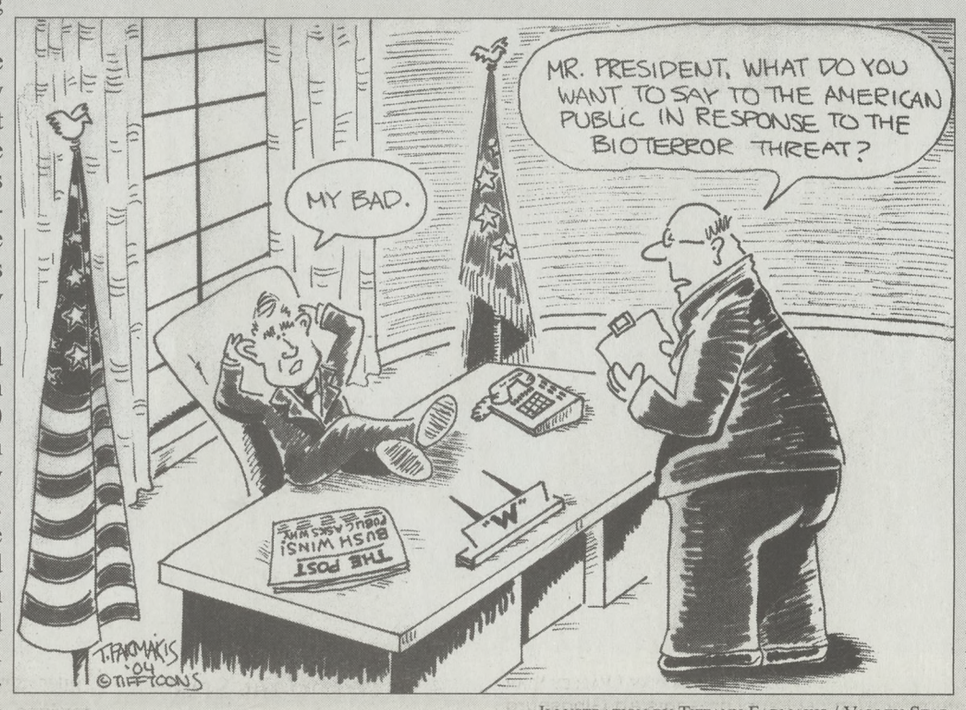
MR. PRESIDENT, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IN RESPONSE TO THE BIOTERROR THREAT?
MY BAD.
THE POST
BUSH WINS!
T.FARMAKIS '04
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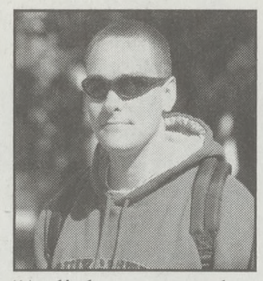
ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

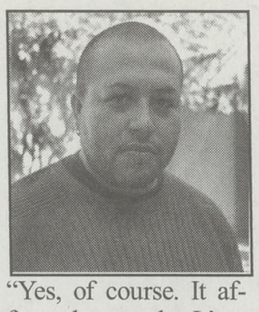
CampusView

PHOTOS BY DAN VILLASENOR, TEXT BY CRYSTAL ELIZONDO

Are you worried about bioterrorism?



"A little more today than before because of warnings on the radio."
-Kevin Sexton



"Yes, of course. It affects the people. It's a shameful way to attack."
-Victor Flores

"No. I'm not really worried."
-Roxy Rodriguez

"No. This terrorism is just a big joke."
- Teri Akpovi

Schwarzenegger Pumps Up His Special Interests

■ California's new governor is getting a lot of mileage out of his oil industry connections.

BY MARILYN MINTON
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's television ads warned that "there are special interest groups out there who are creating problems, and they are bad for California." Schwarzenegger has devoted time during his first 10 months in office to dealing with his special interest groups.

In office less than a year and elected despite his lack of experience, he has stated that he plans to reorganize almost every aspect of the state government.

Much of his so-called reform plan has been significantly influenced by the ChevronTexaco Corporation, which according to state records, has been able to shape such key recommendations as the removal of all restrictions against oil refineries.

Chevron was a major supporter of Arnold's campaign, to the tune of $200,000, contributing another $500,000 to the California Republican Party. Chevron admits that they lobbied hard for the governor to get pet issues into his report to the state assembly.

Chevron was among 20 other major corporations to fund Schwarzenegger's trip to the Republican National Convention.

A shrewd businessman, Arnold is a master at tapping the investment, insurance, real estate, marketing and construction industries as he continues to raise monies for his future campaigns.

The governor's California Recovery Team has been labeled a slush fund by experts in campaign finance who claim this allows him to skirt disclosure laws that apply to most political committees.

... Kindergarten Cop is behaving more like the Terminator.

Phil Angelides, State Treasurer, requested that Schwarzenegger turn over all records of meetings that he and his staff have had with private interests.

Steve Maviglio, a spokesman for the Democratic Assembly campaign, issued a statement accusing Schwarzenegger of "siding with corporate interests." He stated that the governor has accepted $3.7 million in campaign contributions from companies that have sent jobs overseas.

The public was first made aware of Schwarzenegger as a political entity via the recall ballot in 2003 that ousted Gray Davis from office. The Republicans who initiated the recall were anxious to put their own man into the governor's mansion…enter Arnold. His name was placed on the ballot because backers felt that his Hollywood image would bring in the votes, and they were right.

The consensus now seems to be that the Kindergarten Cop is behaving more like the Terminator. Schwarzenegger spent the last few weeks vetoing bills in the Democrat-controlled legislature and taunting Democrats as "girlie-men" during his campaign appearances on behalf of Republicans up for election.

Some of the bills that were vetoed by the governor include raising the minimum wage to $7.75 in 2005 and three bills that would have curbed the out-sourcing of California jobs to foreign countries. He was also against allowing retired members of the State Teachers Retirement System to elect a member of their own group, which is currently filled by a gubernatorial appointee.

He halted the proposed requirement that utilities prepare long-range plans to meet their customers' power needs to prevent electricity prices from skyrocketing, and the "megastore" bill that mandated cities and counties to complete economic reports before ruling on proposals to build retail stores measuring more than 130,000 square feet.

Schwarzenegger vetoed the "megastore" report which would have included assessments of the proposed store's impact on other businesses, wages, public services and traffic.

The governor seems more intent on promoting himself, for his own benefit and that of his special interests rather than using his elected position as an opportunity to create better living standards for all Californians.

Lowering the Bar

■ Lower grade standards may shortchange students.

BY CHELSEA BANKS
STAFF WRITER

A C- grade may seem like a good idea to a student working toward an Associate's Degree, but for a transfer student, it could be a nightmare.

Currently, there are no plus- or minus grades in Valley College's grading system, but that may change.

If the new C- policy is enacted, then it is assumed that more students will pass their classes with a C-. They will advance to the next level instead of receiving a D and having to repeat the class.

The lower grade policy would be a godsend for some students, especially those who need a passing grade in a math class.

Most students need to meet the general education requirements, but do not need a higher level class in math because they do not have a math- or science-based major.

The problem is that while a C- will count as a passing grade by Valley standards, UCs and CSUs don't share this policy.

Most CSUs make it clear in their admissions literature that a C- is not acceptable and must be repeated for a passing grade.

On the surface a C- seems like a genius idea, but when you consider that not only do CSUs and UCs not accept the policy, but most other community colleges don't accept it either, it sounds like a huge mistake.

Another argument is that teachers can let students know that they need to try a lot harder to succeed in the next level of classes, but still pass them.

This is not fair to the students who persevered all semester to get passing grades. To give a C- to a student that really deserves a D cheapens the efforts of hard-working students.

It also teaches the C- students that they don't have to strive very hard to succeed. Instead of working for a passing grade, they can work toward a high D, express to their teachers how much they want to achieve a passing grade, and be awarded the C-.

While it may be an easy slide for C- students, not only isn't it fair to their peers, it isn't fair to the people who will have to depend on the C- students later in life.

Would you want to be under the care of a nurse who had been passed along with only a C-?

When taking into consideration how unpopular the policy is, one has to doubt whether it should be adopted.

A C- is seen as below average, not meeting standards and low quality.

In other words: it's just not good enough.

Any benefits to be attained from the C- policy are immediate and temporary.

The only thing the C- grade will do is cause problems.

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, Nov. 17

The City Drive
9:30 p.m.
Hard Rock Cafe, Universal City
$8

Thursday, Nov. 18

Simple Plan
7 p.m.
The El Rey, Los Angeles
$24

Friday, Nov. 19

Bad Religion
6:30 p.m.
Hollywood Palladium, Hollywood
$20

Film Release:
The Sponge Bob Square Pants Movie
Nickelodeon Movies, Paramount Pictures

National Treasure
Nicholas Cage, Harvey Keitel
Touchstone Pictures

Saturday, Nov. 20

Bad Religion
6:30 p.m.
VHollywood Palladium, Hollywood
$22.50

The Futureheads
8 p.m.
Troubadour, West Hollywood
$12

De LA Soul
11:30 p.m.
House of Blues, Hollywood
$25-$27.50

Monday, Nov. 22

Green Day
7:30 p.m.
Long Beach Arena, Long Beach
$19.50-$39.50

Dean's Reception

KHADIJAH ABDULLAH / VALLEY STAR

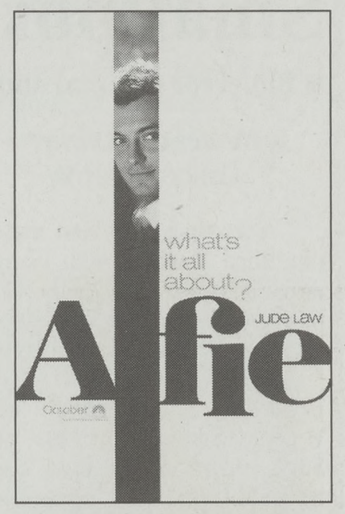
DEANS RECEPTION - Valley College President Dr. Tyree Wieder cocngratulates a student for her academic achievments at the Deans Reception Nov. 11 at Monarchs Hall.

FILM REVIEW

Unwanted Time Warp

■ **Retro remake lacks relevance to today's audience.**

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



"Alfie"
Jude Law
Dir. Charles Shyer
★★

"Alfie" has many things working for it: creative casting, excellent acting and fine direction. However, the film has something working against it: the plot.

The moral of the story is that being a player is bad. When remaking a classic, the plot should still be relevant to today's audience. With Lewis Gilbert's 1966 "Alfie," starring Michael Caine, it was a ground-breaking, innovative topic to tackle. Today, the plot is played out.

In Charles Shyer's remake, Alfie (Jude Law) is a charming, attractive womanizer living in Manhattan. He makes his living as a limousine driver and knows what women want – using that knowledge to get what he wants.

Starting off, Alfie is the ultimate player, juggling an array of girlfriends, played by Marissa Tomei, Susan Sarandon, Jane Krakowski, Nia Long and Sienna Miller – Law's real-life girlfriend. As the story unfolds, Alfie turns into a caring and sympathetic character the audience starts to empathize with as his lifestyle begins to backfire, turning his life into a chronicled story of regrets.

In the book of bad movie remakes, "Alfie" is right under 2000's "Get Carter," another attempt at reprising a role crafted so well by Caine.

With "Get Carter" it was Sylvester Stallone trying his hand at the reins, with "Alfie" it's Law (Cold Mountain, Artificial Intelligence), who does bring some originality to the table as he attempts to make the character his own by turning Alfie into a charming guy who is easy to sympathize with, opposed to Caine's Alfie, who was every bit as dislikable as a comic book villain. Caine's Alfie referred to women as "it" and showed little remorse, but Law's Alfie is more manipulative than blatant in his treatment of women.

While the film doesn't have all the elements, what it does cover, it covers well. The supporting characters are just as talented as Law, with an outstanding performance by Omar Epps, playing Marlon, the naïve best-friend of Alfie. As Marlon is suffering through a break up with the love of his life, Lonette (Long), Alfie preys on Lonette and makes her the next in his long line of conquers.

Adding comedic relief is Gedde Watanabe (Long Duk Dong of Sixteen Candles), playing Wing, Alfie's high-strung boss.

Though the performances hold the film together, they aren't enough to distract the audience from the film's inadequately updated story line.

"Alfie" should have stayed in 1966.

MOVIE LISTINGS

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'Rubin'

continued from page 1

the Midwest."

Her brief stint in New York further increased her admiration of California. She moved back east after receiving her communications degree from UCLA in 1969 and worked making instructional videos for McGraw Hill.

"New York had an adverse effect on me," said Rubin. "I remember a friend of mine visited me from California. We were on a subway in rush hour. When our stop came and we were supposed to get off, I didn't realize how good I'd gotten at shoving people out of my way. I had come to the point where I could elbow and not even give it a second thought."

This sickened Rubin and she soon realized how much she missed California.

"You have to become a very hard person to comfortably survive in New York City. It is a very difficult place to live if you're not super wealthy," said Rubin. "I just loved California and really wanted to move back."

Rubin returned to Los Angeles, got married and went into the Riverside county citrus business with her husband.

Eleven years later, she received her doctorate from Loyola Law School on a whim.

"We were spending a huge amount of money on legal fees and my husband said, 'we really need a lawyer in this business, you should go to school,'" said Rubin. "So I applied and got accepted and figured, 'oh, what the heck, I'll go to law school.'"

For 19 years she practiced as an attorney. When her husband decided to retire in 1998, Rubin left the citrus business and began working at the 99¢ Stores as the assistant to the general council.

"It was a very interesting experience," said Rubin. "The main thing I dealt with was the slip-and-fall charges. People would sue the company and 99¢ had a very interesting approach to these claims. They never wanted to settle, they would rather go to trial and phase these people out."

Rubin faced approximately 150 claims in any given day.

"It was a window into human nature because people would come up with really bizarre stories," said Rubin. "It just showed me to what lengths people would go for a few dollars."

The brief time she worked for the company took its toll and in 1999, when the owners were interested in selling, Rubin decided it was time to move on.

"During this time, I was taking office administration classes at Harbor College, a community college," said Rubin. "The experience was great. I had never taken a community college course before and I started thinking, 'where would I like to work?' I kept coming back to Harbor College."

"I saw an ad in the Los Angeles Times for a position at Valley," continued Rubin. " I really wanted to work at Harbor, but Valley is a sister school."

One walk on the campus was enough to convince Rubin that Valley was the place for her. She was hired and three years later, continues to work at the school.

"No day is like the other," said Rubin. "It's never boring [at Valley]."

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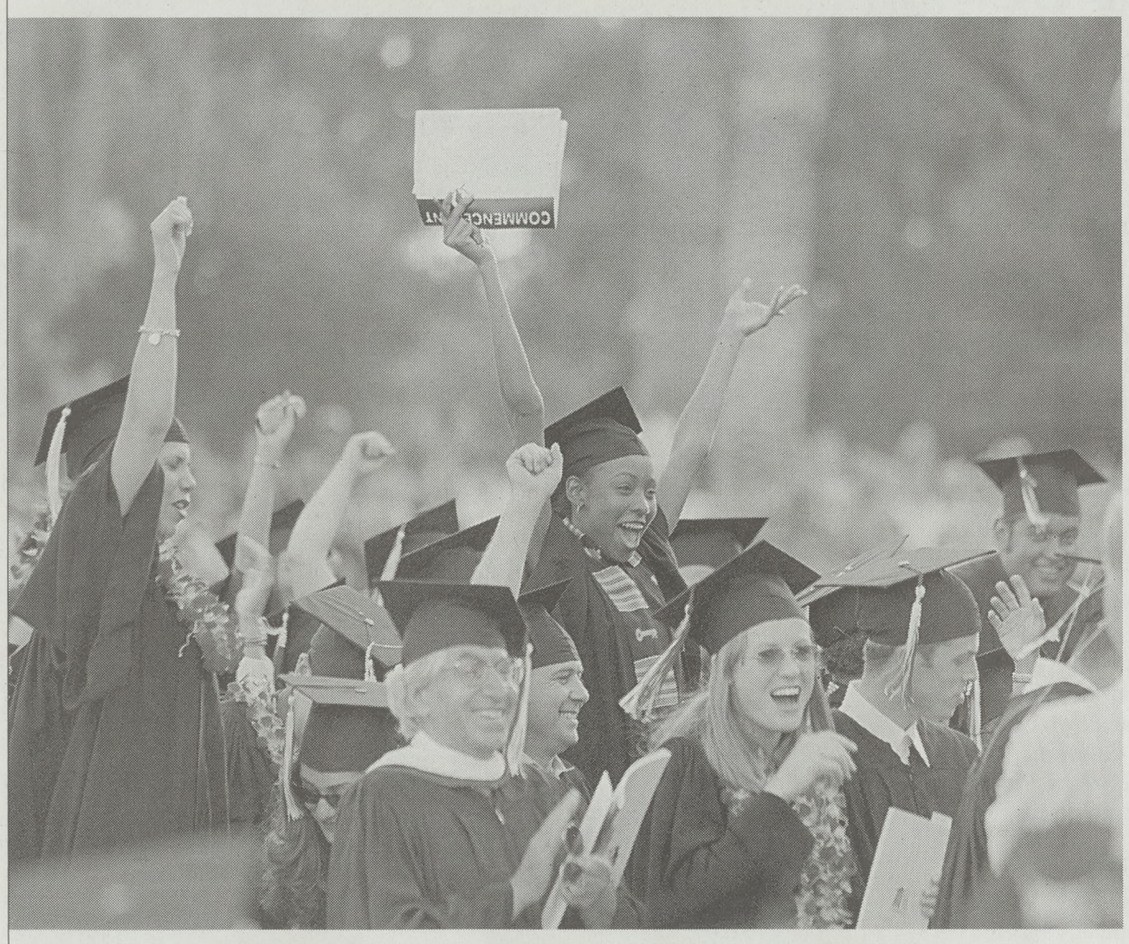

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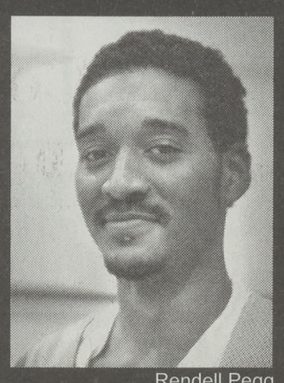
California State University Northridge

Men's and Women's 2004-05 Basketball Preview

BY SAM HAHN
SPORTS EDITOR


Rendell Pegg

After finishing last season with a 7-5 conference and a 15-14 overall record and failing to make the playoffs, the Monarch basketball team made changes in the off-season that started with the hiring of new head coach Glenn "Red" Hefferman.

Hefferman, who is replacing last year's head coach Jay Werner, comes to Valley College after spending the last several years coaching in Chicago.

"I have two different sets of expectations for this team this season," said Hefferman.

"Hopefully, [the team] can go out there and play hard on the court. Secondly, I want my boys to be successful academically.

"All of my players are students first, so I expect them to work hard in all of their classes," said Hefferman. "They should all strive to obtain a degree in order to move on to the next level."

Making an immediate impact on the team, Hefferman has incorporated a new style of play this season.

"My strategy is to run," explained Hefferman. "I want this team to be up tempo, and press throughout the game.

"I'm also pushing hard to implement this method to our team because most players like to play this kind of basketball," said Hefferman.

Having only two returning players from last season, Hefferman adds that this year's squad will be varied..

"We have a very diverse group of players this year," said Hefferman. "Seven are from Chicago, six from right here in California, and one is actually from Michigan."

Hefferman added that the chemistry is great on the team, and that he expects his players to work hard on and off the court.

"One thing about our team is that we have 14 very good basketball players. We don't have a marquee individual that stands out, but each player on this team can contribute in many different ways," said Hefferman.

When asked about the competition this season, Hefferman stated that he has gone out to scout some of the teams that the Monarchs will be playing this year.

"I know that we may not win all our games this year, but I know for a fact that our success wouldn't be credited to how many wins and losses we have this year."

The Monarchs season will open at the Fullerton Classic Nov. 18 through 20.

Lady Monarch center Jasmine Wesley

Photo Illustration by Bob Teichmann

BY SAM HAHN
SPORTS EDITOR

Roxy Quintero

The re tooled Lady Monarch basketball team kicked off its 2004-05 season Nov. 9 with a 71-66 win over the visiting Santa Barbara Vaqueros.

Led by new head coach Ruth Seja, the Lady Monarchs look to rebound this season after an unfortunate 74-65 first round loss to the Cypress College Chargers last March.

"We, as a coaching staff, have used many similar techniques from last season and we also added some new aspects that can help us greatly," said Seja.

"Coach Muro (last year's head coach) and I worked together during last season, so I didn't have to make too many changes this season," added Seja.

Seja has brought along new coaches Johnny Garcia (Bell-Jeff high school) and Shelton Boykins as the Lady Monarchs look to improve from last season finishing with a 10-2 conference and a 19-10 record overall.

"[The team] has a lot of new girls coming into this season," said Seja. "We only have one returning player from last season (Roxy Quintero) and most of the girls on this team are freshmen."

"This year's team is a completely different and new squad from last season," added Seja.

As nine of the 12 Lady Monarchs are freshman, Seja explained that Valley would be relying heavily on the play of freshmen April Montgomery, Jennae Peoples, and Natasha Thomas.

Also returning are sophomores April Montgomery and Jasmine Wesley, who is coming back from a two-year break recovering from a knee injury.

With these changes, the Lady Monarchs hope to make a bold statement this season according to Seja.

"Offensively, we have the height that we greatly lacked last season, but we lost a two time all-state point guard in Syretta Coleman," said Seja.

"Hopefully, we can make up the loss of Coleman with our size this season."

Playing in front of a raucous home crowd, the Lady Monarchs and Vaqueros opened up the season as Valley played from behind most of the game.

Finding momentum, Thomas carried Valley in the second half as the freshman center had 29 points, 15 rebounds, and 7 blocks as the Lady Monarchs and Vaqueros fought each other continuously to maintain their lead during the game.

The Lady Monarchs opened their season with a third place finish in the Merced tournament and are currently 3-1 in the season.

The Lady Monarchs will play in the SBCC Tip-Off Classic Nov. 18-20.

LAVC SCORES

W. Water Polo@WSC Tourney
11/5-6/04
vs. Santa Monica **(8-4 Valley)**
vs. Ventura **(Ventura)**
vs. Citrus **(7-5 Valley)**
3rd place finish at Tournament
M.Water Polo final record: 12-14

W.Basketball@North/South Tip-Off Classic
11/11-14/04
vs. Reedly **(68-55 Valley)**
vs. Santa Rosa **(78-68 Santa Rosa)**
3rd place finish at Tournament
W. Basketball record: 3-1

M.Water Polo vs. Grossmont
1st round of So. Cal Regionals
(8-7 Grossmont) 11/12/04
M.Water Polo final record: 12-9

Football@Pierce
(W36-33) 11/13/04
Football final record: 3-7

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11/17/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 11/18/04
W.Basketball@SBCC Tip-Off Classic TBA
M.Basketball@Fullerton Classic TBA
Friday 11/19/04
W.Basketball@SBCC Tip-Off Classic TBA
M.Basketball@Fullerton Classic TBA
Saturday 11/20/04
W.Basketball@SBCC Tip-Off Classic TBA
M.Basketball@Fullerton Classic TBA
Sunday 11/21/04
No Scheduled Games
Monday 11/22/04
No Scheduled Games
Tuesday 11/23/04
No Scheduled Games
Wednesday 11/24/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 11/25/04
No Scheduled Games
Friday 11/26/04
M.Basketball@Condor Classic TBA
Saturday 11/27/04
M.Basketball@Condor Classic TBA
Sunday 11/28/04
M.Basketball@Condor Classic TBA
Monday 11/29/04
W.Soccer@Glendale 3 p.m.
Tuesday 11/30/04
Cross Country@State Championships
Wednesday 12/01/04
No Scheduled Games
Thursday 12/02/04
W.Basketball@Sequoias Classic TBA
Friday 12/03/04
W.Basketball@Sequoias Classic TBA
Saturday 12/04/04
W.Basketball@Sequoias Classic TBA
M.Basketball@Allan Hancock 7 p.m.

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE — FOOTBALL

Monarchs Retake the Bell From Pierce

■ Valley "reclaims the bell" as the Monarchs defeat the Pierce Brahmas with a 36-33 come-from-behind victory in finale.

BY SAM HAHN
SPORTS EDITOR

WOODLAND HILLS — Valley ended its football season with a 36-33 win against long-time rival Pierce College after coming back from a 17-point defecit.

The "bell" is given annually to the winner of the game between Pierce and Valley. The Brahmas have retained the bell for the past three seasons.

"This game was huge for us," said wide receiver Max Parra. "[The team] had been struggling all season and to end the season like this is tremendous. We showed a lot of heart today."

Coming off a crushing 41-14 defeat at the hands of the Ventura Pirates a week earlier, the Monarchs entered Saturday's season finale with a dismal 2-7 record and were expected to fold to the much-improved Brahmas who had entered the game with a 4-5 overall record after finishing 2-8 last season.

The Monarchs were without defensive tackle Laumoli Faleafaga and running back Edric Prim as Faleafaga sustained a broken leg in practice and Prim left late in first quarter due to a concussion.

Valley trailed early as the Brahmas scored on their first possession as freshman quarterback Thomas Herringshaw connected on a 4-yard touchdown pass to sophomore receiver Ramon Perry to give Pierce an early 7-0 lead.

Monarch kicker Christian Guardado answered with a 28-yard field goal as Valley's offense drove the length of the field to cut the Brahma lead 7-3.

Pierce answered right back as Herringshaw connected with Perry once again for a 54-yard touchdown reception. Brahma kicker Greg Fullerton's attempted P.A.T was blocked as the score remained 13-3 late in the first quarter.

Guardado connected on a 44-yard field goal attempt as Valley continually cut into the Brahma lead 13-6.

Not taking advantage of a big 4-7 stop, Valley was forced to punt the ball away before Pierce scored once again on a 1-yard touchdown run by Brahma Will German to extend the lead 19-6.

Failing to capitalize on a 3-7 on the Brahma 13-yard line, Valley settled for a 27-yard field goal by Guardado and entered halftime down 19-9, as an apparent Brahma fumble was incomplete by the referee behind the line of scrimmage.

"We knew that we were still in it," said sophomore wide receiver Charles Harris. "Even entering halftime 10 points down didn't worry us at all. Teams have come back from bigger deficits."

Brahma defensive back Tommie Sykes intercepted Monarch quarterback Brendon Doyle's first pass of the second half as Pierce capitalized on the turnover and scored on a 23-yard touchdown reception by wide receiver Mike Guevara.

The scored remained 25-9 as Pierce failed to convert on a two-point conversion.

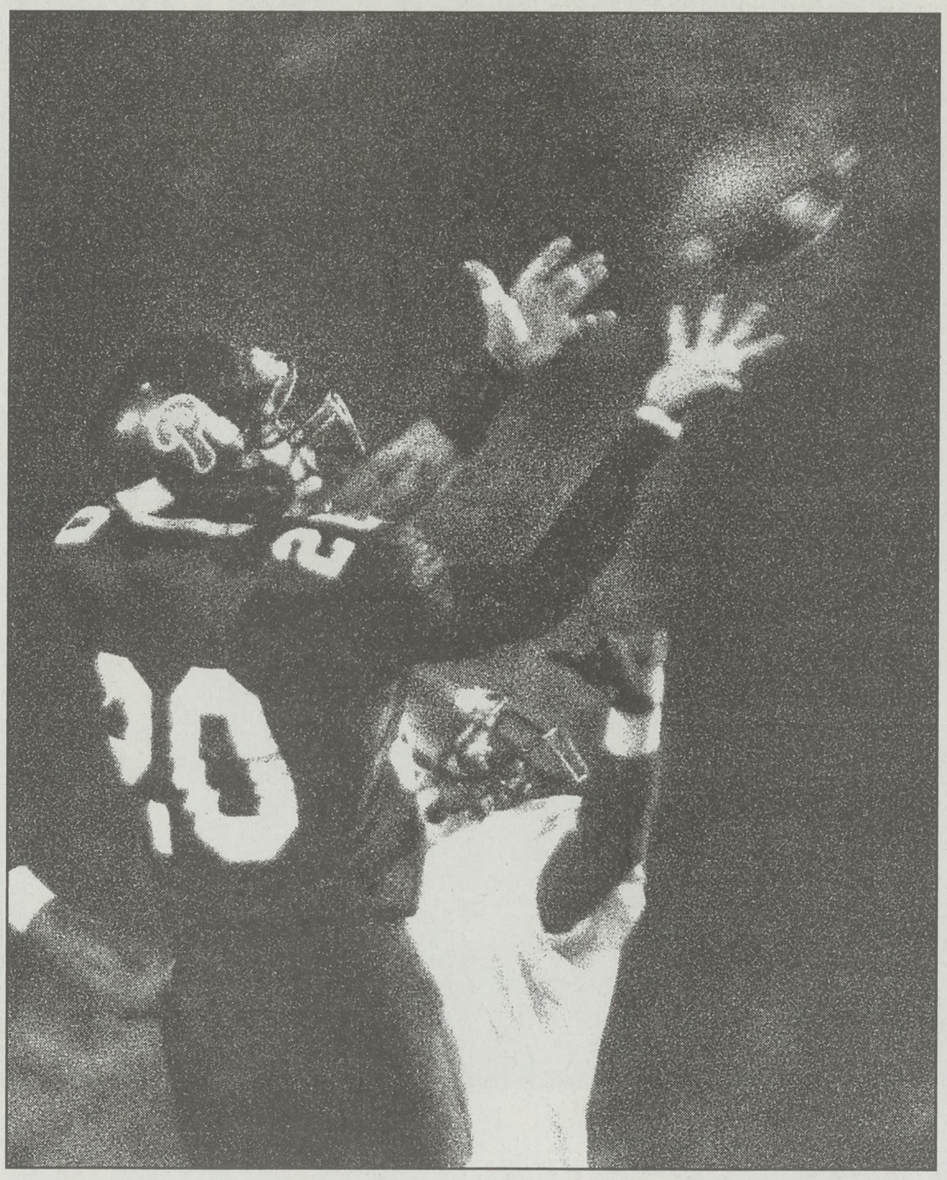
Doyle answered back with an 8-yard touchdown run of his own as Valley attempted to chip into the already bloated Brahma lead 25-16.

Trailing 33-22 in the fourth quarter, quarterback Corey Jones connected with Harris on a 47-yard touchdown reception that cut the lead to 32-28 after Pierce and Valley punted as each team failed to convert on key third downs.

Freshman cornerback Geoff Tisdale intercepted Herringshaw's pass on the 4-yard line to give Valley it's first lead as Parra converted on a two-point conversion to push the lead 36-33.

In a state of shock, Pierce could not get anything going as Valley's defense stepped up big and sacked Herringshaw in the Brahmas' final two possessions and forced a fumble that was recovered by defensive back Timothy McDaniel to put the game away in front of a shocked Brahma crowd.

"Wow, this game was incredible," said Doyle (12-18 passing, 133 yards; 85 rushing yards). "We were down big, and we just came in and took care of business. Everybody came up big today. It's just a testament to our coaching staff that just wouldn't let us give up."


GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

CRASHING THE PARTY - Brahmas' defensive back Tommie Sykes, 20, leaps up to intercept a pass Nov. 13 at Shepard Stadium in Woodland Hills. Valley defeated Pierce 36-33.

Players and coaches stormed onto the field as Monarch players raced across the field to grab the bell that is given to the winner annually.

"Ring that bell, baby!" yelled the Valley sideline long after the game.

"Our 3-7 record by no means reflects our character," said offensive lineman Tommy Burns. "We had close games this entire season, and it's exciting to see what our potential can be if we just come together.

""What a way to end the season," said Jones (4-8 passing, TD).

"Even with much adversity, everyone on this team knew that we could win tonight. We never let up and it shows with the way we played."

Many players were excited to see what next year's Monarchs could accomplish with Saturday's win.

"We came through big," said Tisdale, who finished the season with eight interceptions. "It's going to be exciting to see what we, as a team, can do next season."

"I'm definitely coming back this next season," said Doyle.

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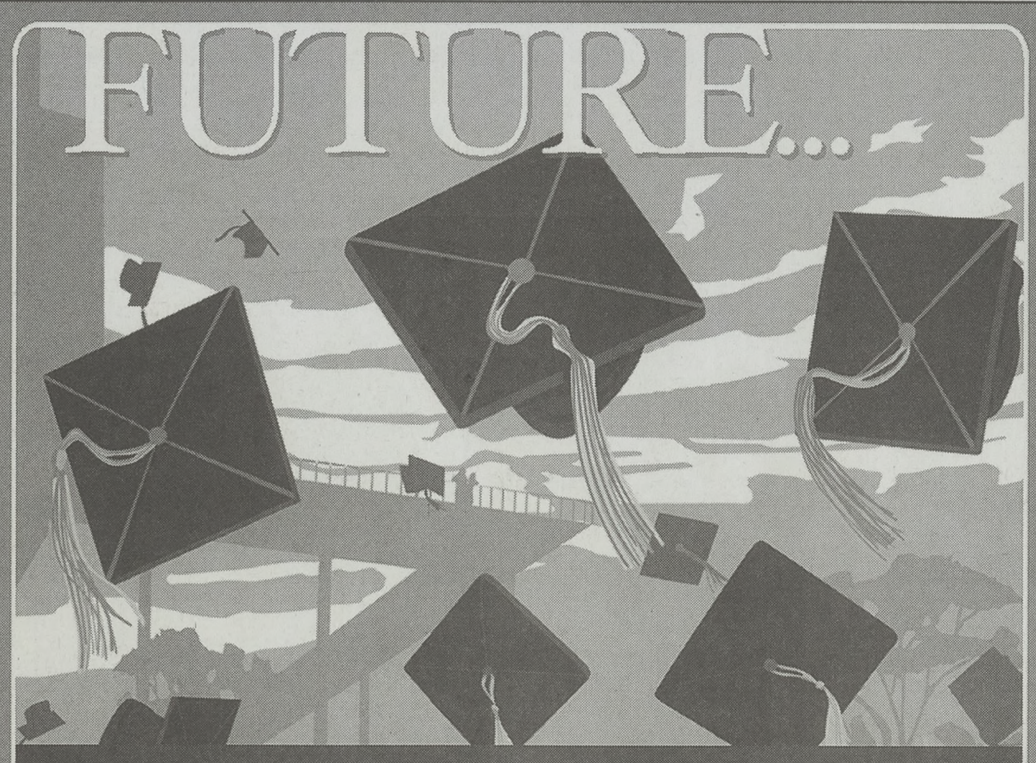

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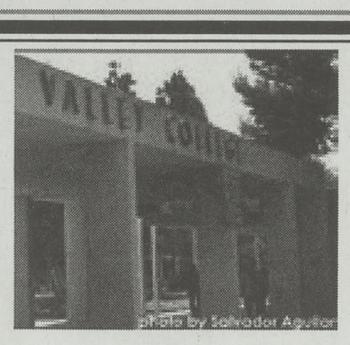

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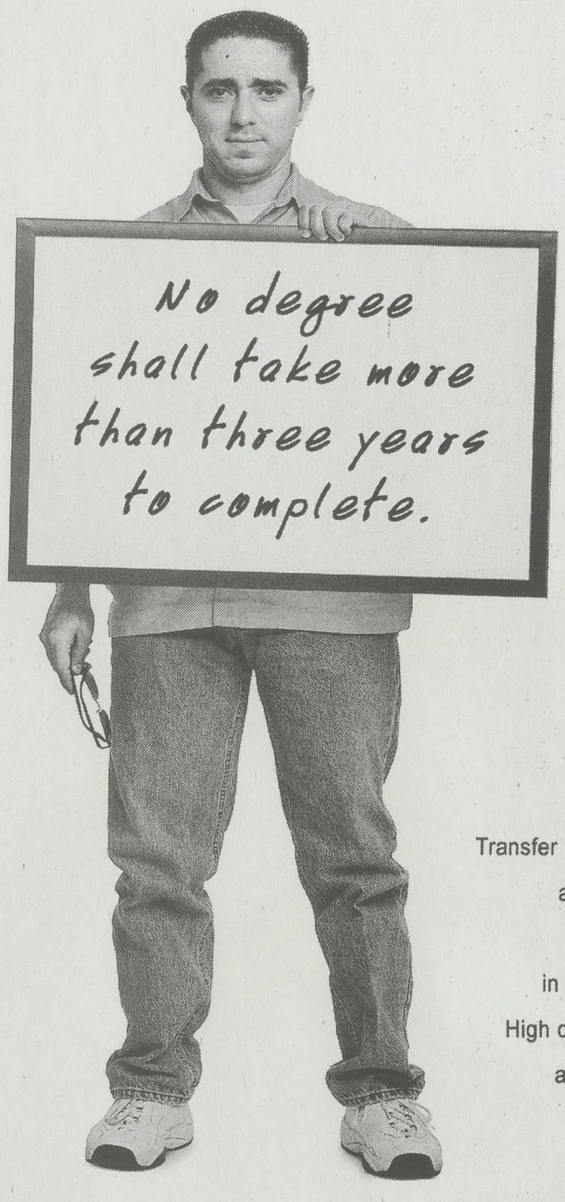

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GALLERY

SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

MEET THE BOARD - The Patron's Association celebrates Valley College's 55th anniversary. (L to R) Michael Weinper, Bruce Maxson, Alice Spilberg, Collen Ferguson, Kathi Atkinson, Art Ginsburg, Gerald Fecht, Elain Baylor, Kenneth Worthen, Elizabeth James, James Schaff, Tyree Wieder, Robert Yelenovsky, Ed Sugar and Raul Castillo.

A President's Gala

Text, photos and layout by Sevan Ghazaryan

The President's Gala proved to be a success with more than 500 students, alumni, faculty and board members attending Nov. 6 at the Universal City Sheraton ballroom . Valley College celebrated its 55th anniversary as Los Angeles City Council member Wendy Greuel presented Valley alumnus Art Ginsburg with an achievement award.

"Art passed a final in business in 1957 and opened Art's Deli the very next day," said Patron's President Michael Weinper.

"I'm Art's guest tonight, he's my friend and neighbor," said baseball legend Pete Rose. This year, the association has distributed approximately $49,000 in scholarships. An auction at the event raised more than $5,000 with items including signed scripts and a Pete Rose baseball bat. Los Angeles Clippers' General Manager Elgin Baylor donated a plane trip for two with accomadations to a game in Sacramento, which sold for $1,500.

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A LEGEND - Eleven-time Laker all-star and Clippers' General Manager Elgin Baylor and wife Elaine enjoy the evening.

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BOOGIE NIGHTS - Valley College President Tyree Wieder feels the beat with students and faculty members.

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THE HIT KING - The great Pete Rose who donated baseball memorabilia for the event holds 19 baseball records including most hits and most at bats.

SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

THE MAGIC STICK - Mr. and Mrs. Hank Krawczyk won the bid on a limited edition signed Pete Rose baseball and bat for $600.